

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:NEA:EGABINGTON:MAR

APPROVED BY:NEA:EGABINGTON

S/S:FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099162

NODIS

PARIS FOR LAMBRAKIS ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 3655 (NODIS) ACTION SECSTATE APR 23.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3655

NODIS

PASS TO SECRETARY IN LONDON

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: CALL ON JUMBLATT

1. AMBASSADOR BROWN SAW JUMBLATT FOR ONE HOUR EVENING APRIL 22. JUMBLATT WAS IN A RELAXED AND EXPANSIVE MOOD. HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT GET ALL HE WANTED FROM THE SYRIANS BUT HE IMPLIED HE COULD LIVE WITH WHAT WAS WORKED OUT BETWEEN ASSAD AND ARAFAT. WHILE CONCEDED SYRIA HAD A ROLE TO PLAY IN LEBANON, HE AGAIN WARNED AGAINST THE DANGERS OF SYRIAN MILITARY INVASION AND THE DANGER OF GETTING TOO INVOLVED WITH A NON-DEMOCRATIC STATE. ASSAD AND HIS FELLOW ALOUITES, HE CLAIMED, WERE USING THE BAATH PARTY AS A SORT OF BIKINI TO COVER THEIR REAL INTENTS.

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2. AMBASSADOR REMINDED JUMBLATT OF PREVIOUS CONVERSATION DURING WHICH HE, THE AMBASSADOR, HAD SPOKEN OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL ROLE SYRIA WAS PLAYING IN LEBANON. AS FAR AS SYRIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS CONCERNED, THIS WAS BEST PREVENTED IF THE LEBANESE PARTIES COLLABORATED IN SOLVING THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, A PROCEDURE WHICH, INTER-ALIA, REQUIRED RESTRAINT ON PART OF ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING JUMBLATT.

3. JUMBLATT CONCURRED. SAID THE TIME FOR DIALOGUE HAD ARRIVED. SOUNDINGS HAD ALREADY GONE OUT TO GEMAYEL'S PARTY. HE WAS PREPARED TO MEET WITH GEMAYEL IN PARIS FOR ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS, EITHER ALONE OR WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. PARIS WAS A GOOD LOCATION BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND THE MARONITES. (HE OBVIOUSLY ASSUMED THE FRENCH COULD AND WOULD WANT TO RESTRAIN THE MARONITES.) MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. HE THEN MENTIONED RIYAD AS A POSSIBLE MEETING PLACE, WITH THE ADDITION OF SOME FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS. THE WAY HE SPOKE IMPLIED THAT HE HAD IN MIND SUCH A PROCEDURE IN ORDER TO GET THE EGYPTIANS IN THE ACT SO HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO FACE THE SYRIANS ALONE.

4. JUMBLATT SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR LAW AND ORDER IN TERRITORY HE CONTROLLED. HE WAS ALREADY PUTTING MEMBERS OF HIS ARMED FORCES (EVEN PALESTINIANS) IN PRISON FOR THEFT. SOLDIERS HAD TO HAVE IDEALS AND DISCIPLINE. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO EXPAND SUCH POLICE ACTIVITY INTO OTHER ASPECTS OF GOVERNMENT IF THERE WERE FURTHER DELAYS IN GETTING ON WITH THE ELECTION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT. (THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM WE WANTED NO DELAYS IN THIS PROCEDURE AND WERE WORKING ACTIVELY IN THAT DIRECTION. HE AGAIN URGED RESTRAINT ON JUMBLATT'S PART IN THE MEANWHILE.)

5. JUMBLATT WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RE-ESTABLISHING SECURITY. IF A MILITARY COUNCIL WAS FORMED REPRESENTING THE VARIOUS FACTIONS, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PUT TOGETHER A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE ARMY. A NEW GENERAL WAS NEEDED.

6. ON THE NEW PRESIDENT, JUMBLATT DECRIED CLUMSY SYRIAN INTERFERENCE RE SARKIS, BUT SAID HE DID NOT EXCLUDE SARKIS. HE HAD HAD MEETINGS WITH SARKIS FOUR TIMES, BUT FOUND THE LAST MEETING DISAPPOINTING. RAYMOND EDDE WAS BEST CANDIDATE.  
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SARKIS WAS A BETTER NO. 2 MAN THAN A NO. 1 MAN. ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE CANDIDATES WERE JEAN AZIZ AND PIERRE HELOU. HE THEN MENTIONED A HERETOFORE UNKNOWN AS AN EXCELLENT COMPROMISE, NAMELY, W. MALLOT, FORMER HEAD OF TAU BAR ASSOCIATION.

7. HIS REFERENCES TO REFORM, YOUTH AND SECULARIZATION WERE RATHER LOW KEY, BUT NEVERTHELESS QUITE INSISTENT.

8. JUMBLATT WOUND UP BY THANKING THE AMBASSADOR FOR  
HIS EFFORTS WHICH HE CONSIDERED VERY HELPFUL AND SAID HE  
LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING HIM UPON HIS RETURN.  
WARING  
UNQUOTE SISCO

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERVENTION, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE099162  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** NEA:EGABINGTON:MAR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** N760003-0448  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 2  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760427/aaaaawyd.tel  
**Line Count:** 121  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** LOCK1  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CALL ON JUMBLATT  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, MPOL, LE, SY, (BROWN, L DEAN), (JUMBLATT, KAMAL)  
**To:** DAMASCUS PARIS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006